BRITISH LEGATION, VATICAN.

N
1306

File No.: 91

Needed
[illegible]
12/4/57

Name of File :—

EMIGRATION

FO
380

Interest [illegible] assistance to Refugees [illegible] Persons.

(No minutes to be written here.)

LAST Year's File No.:

NEXT Year's File No.: 110

CLOSED
UNTIL
1977

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

91/18/12/46

INCOMING

Not promising

Ask Col. Toulin to call & see this. I think he should see it.

D.

17.12.

Foreign Office

D.Q.O.

Col Toulin says he will try to come tomorrow 18th

J.U. 17th

2022

11/12/46

14.34

12/12/46

16.45

12/12/46

OTP

Rome and Holy See

2022

11/12/46

XXXXX
XXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXX

He came & read this. He leaves Rome on Friday until after Xmas.

D 18.12.

Addressed to Rome telegram No. 2022 of 11th December and Holy See, telegram no. 117.

Copy for

Holy See No.117.

Following received from Buenos Aires tel.no.1137 of 7th December. Begins:

Following for ‡Sir Herbert Emerson from ×Taylor.

Direction of Inter. postal committee for Refugees & High Com. for Refugees at L. of N.

Reference your telegram of December 5th and Collin's letter November 30th.

I made absolutely no headway. Hope to send you long letter soon.

× this Rep. at BA.

‡ Scillingo mission leaves December 7th and can be reached c/o Argentine Embassy Rome, presumably after December 13th. However it is preferable to await our letter before seeing him. We have [? gp. omitted] in vain for interview with President. Have made repeated but abortive attempts to see M.F.A. again to further this end.

‡ It is thought that he will be under Foreign Office.

2. Internal position here regarding immigration is chaotic. Press reports regarding four million immigrants from 30,000 a month are completely false, unfounded and fantastic. Scillingo mission has not seen the President either and is leaving without firm directives although amply armed with new form designed to supercede all previous passport and visa requirements.

3. U.S. and H.M. Ambassadors agree that to initiate immigration of I.G.C. D.P.'s into this country it is essential to obtain agreement from President and that Scillingo mission should be authorized [gp. undec. ? financial assistance].

Take to Committee

4. Notwithstanding the fact that this country requires immigrants, that immigration is favourably considered by the public, that opportunities in agriculture and industry exist and that standards of living and climatic conditions would compare well with Brazil, nevertheless, current political authoritarianism and administrative confusion here makes us increasingly doubtful of the desirability of greatly encouraging emigration of I.G.C. D.P.'s to Argentina without a protracted and detailed investigation of internal projects for resettlement and planning of these projects has hardly begun.

/5.

5. We are consequently exercised as to whether we should not visit Paraguay where hopes of more productive discussions and opportunities for early immigration appear to be more probable, at the same time leaving the door open here for subsequent return. We would be grateful for your instructions.

6. We are giving a Major Bodjinski a letter of introduction to you. He has been working here on behalf of Anders' Poles. He is undoubtedly a political agent and is a self-admitted ardent anti-repatriationist and propagandist. Nevertheless he can give you accurate insight of current confusion here in high places. Present Government procrastination however is not levelled only at us but is typical of methods applied even to foreign [gp. undec.] and others. Number 3.

AS.

INCOMING

Foreign Office

Rome

91/16/46

2002
of 9.12.46
Cypher/OTP

1917 hrs. 10.12.46

0900 hrs. 11.12.46

Addressed to Rome, telegram No. 2002 of December 9th, repeated to Holy See 114 and Buenos Aires.

Holy See
tel. no.
114

CONFIDENTIAL.

See 14A

"Times" of December 2nd contains report from its correspondent in Buenos Aires that Argentine Government are willing to receive four million immigrants starting at rate of 30,000 monthly. They are said to have sent a delegate to New York to purchase ships for this purpose.

2. Report adds that a priest, Father Jose Clemente Silva, is to leave for Europe immediately with Ambassador's rank and will establish his headquarters in Rome for the purpose of selecting immigrants.

3. If Buenos Aires can confirm the truth of this report, you might approach Father Silva and stress the importance of giving priority to refugees in any such scheme.

4. The Vatican might also be asked to support you in this, especially since so many of these refugees are Catholics.

5. Even the Italian Government may concur in granting of priority to their refugees in view of their firm desire to see these people removed from Italian soil.

EKS.

See 14 (a)

Q. Await B.A. report. (I suppose we shd take the action on 3 & 4, even though the Tel is addressed to the Embassy.)

RS 11.12.

They have just telephoned to say that F. Silva is expected here from Bahia today or tomorrow!

I have spoken with the Argentine Embassy to the HS, who say they have no information, that they have been questioned by the Vatican too, & regard the story as a "canard".

RS 12.12.

Just discuss with Col. Tomlin (see 12). Ask him to call.

471322 D.G.O.

91/14/46

91/14/46

British Legation to the Holy See,

R O M E,

25th October, 1946.

Dear Monsignor Carroll,

(10)

We forwarded a copy of the Secretariat of State's Note No. 139140/S of September 16th on the subject of the displaced persons and refugee problem to the authorities concerned in London, who have read it with interest and appreciation. In this connection we have now been asked to let the Vatican know that the Emigration Branch of the Interim Treasury Committee for Polish Affairs in London has been expanded to deal with the emigration of members of the Polish Resettlement Corps. This Branch is also being put into touch with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees in London, so that their efforts towards the final resettlement of these Poles may be co-ordinated.

Perhaps you would kindly pass on this information to Monsignor Montini and the Vatican organisation concerned.

Yours sincerely,

sgd. D.G. Osborne

Monsignor Walter S. Carroll,
Secretariat of State of
His Holiness,
VATICAN CITY.

Q. Inform Mgr Carroll
25.10.

91/13/46

(WR 2782/441/48)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

16th October, 1946.

Dear Chancery,

Please refer to Sir D'Arcy Osborne's letter 91/11/46 of the 26th September to Sir George Rendel enclosing copy of a note from the Secretariat of State on the subject of the resettlement of refugees. We are copying this letter to Sir George Rendel who is at present in New York.

With reference to the second paragraph of the letter under reference, the answer is that Colonel Tomlin of the I.G.C. is certainly pursuing the same ends as ourselves. He was recently instructed by Sir Herbert Emerson, the Director of the I.G.C., to get into touch with the Settlement Department at the Vatican and to keep his Headquarters informed of any interesting developments.

We should also be glad if the Vatican could be informed that the Emigration Branch of the Interim Treasury Committee for Polish Affairs in London has been expanded to deal with the emigration of members of the Polish Resettlement Corps. This Branch is being put into touch with the I.G.C here so that their efforts towards the final resettlement of these Poles may be co-ordinated.

Yours ever,
Refugee Department.

The Chancery,
British Legation
to Holy See,
Rome.

91/12/46

British Legation to the Holy See,
R O M E.

September 26th 1946.

91/12/46

Dear Colonel Tomlin,

I enclose herewith for your information copy of a Note which I have received from the Vatican on the general subject of the resettlement of refugees. It is in reply to a Memorandum which I sent to Monsignor Montini at Sir George Rendel's request. I think I showed you this Memorandum? The Vatican Note contributes nothing new or concrete, but it does abound in expressions of goodwill and readiness to collaborate. I talked to Monsignor Montini to-day and he told me that the proposed new Vatican agency is still in "the state of gestation". I told him you wanted to meet him and he said he would see you when he returns from the holiday on which he starts tomorrow. But he said that you should continue to deal with Monsignor Carroll.

(10)

Yours sincerely,

471322

Lt. Colonel Julian L. Tomlin
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,
Allied Commission Headquarters
Room 47
Via Vittorio Veneto 33,
ROME.

91/11/46

91/11/46

British Legation to the Holy See,
R O M E.

September 26th 1946.

My dear Rendel,

(5)

With reference to my letter No. 91/5/46 of August 8th, I enclose herewith copy of a Note which I have received from the Secretariat of State in reply to the Memorandum which I sent to Monsignor Montini on the subject of the resettlement of refugees. It does not contain anything more than assurances of comprehension and willingness to collaborate, but is satisfactory on that account. From what Monsignor Montini told me this morning the proposed new Vatican agency is still in the state of gestation (his word), but I think that all possible is being done through the Nuncios in South America and elsewhere.

(10)

2. I am sending a copy of the Note to Colonel Julian Tomlin, who is the representative here of the I.G.C.R. I take it that he is pursuing the same ends as you?

Yours ever,

(Sgd) D.G. Osborne.

Sir George Rendel K.C.M.G.
Foreign Office.

91/10/46

DAL VATICANO, September 16, 1946

Discussed with Mgr M. 26/9.
Drafts Sir G. Rendel & Col. Taylor Sept. 26.
D.G.O.

N° 139140/S
DA CITARSI NELLA RISPOSTA

(6)

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness presents its compliments to His Britannic Majesty's Legation to the Holy See and gratefully acknowledges receipt of the latter's Memorandum of August 10, 1946 concerning the international solution of the refugee and displaced persons problem.

The Secretariat of State, fully cognizant of the importance of this problem and of the difficulties which may be encountered in the eventual solution of it, would assure His Britannic Majesty's Legation that the Holy See will gladly lend every possible assistance in this undertaking. The Secretariat of State would likewise advise His Britannic Majesty's Legation that important and, it is to be hoped, effective action has already been taken by the Holy See and by various national Catholic organizations with a view to assisting the International Refugee Organization which will be charged with the ultimate activation of this tremendous project.

This office is following with particular interest and attention the efforts being made by representatives of various

---

His Excellency
Sir Francis d'Arcy Godolphin Osborne
His Britannic Majesty's Legation
to the Holy See

(Enclosure: 1)

governmental agencies to ascertain the number of displaced persons who will come within the scope of this project as well as the endeavors of those agencies to categorize the displaced persons according to language, profession or occupation, religion and civil status. Any assistance which the Holy See or its Representatives may be in a position to offer in the furtherance of these labours will be most willingly afforded.

The Representatives of the Holy See in the countries which have indicated some willingness or desire to permit or encourage the immigration of these displaced persons, have been instructed to approach those Governments with a view to ascertaining to what extent immigration will be permitted. These same Representatives are now being directed to encourage the establishment of local ecclesiastical organizations which will be capable of receiving and caring for the displaced persons upon their arrival and during the initial period, at least, of their residence in those countries.

A representative of the Brazilian Government at present in Italy to study this problem has indicated to the Holy See that his Government would wish to enlist the fullest collaboration of the parish priests and the ecclesiastical organizations in Brazil in the work of compiling data regarding the needs for manpower in the local communities and in the settlement care of the immigrants admitted to Brazil to fill those needs.

Various national Catholic groups have manifested an active interest in this great problem and, in some cases, have already initiated projects which should aid materially in the solution of the problem. The American "National Catholic Welfare Conference", a Copy of whose general plan is attached hereto, has sent representatives to Europe and to the South American Countries to study the matter and to coordinate the already successful operations of that group with the general plans of the International Refugee Organization. The Catholic Hierarchy of Australia has recently sent a representative, His Excellency Archbishop Simmonds, to Europe on a similar mission.

As is known to Sir D'Arcy, His Eminence Cardinal Griffin and other members of the Catholic Hierarchy of England have also manifested an active interest in this project.

It is hoped that it may be possible to enlist the collaboration in this work of some of the efficient English Catholic Organizations and, in this regard, the War Relief Services, N.C.W.C. are approaching the representatives in England, Germany and Italy of the Catholic Womens' League and of the Catholic Committee for Relief Abroad.

Thus, while awaiting the establishment of the new International Refugee Organization, the Holy See will continue its preparatory work which, if so desired, will serve as an aid, and perhaps as a guide, to that international organization which will be constituted to direct this very important and very complicated project.

Monsignor Erminio Viganò

- Prelato per l'Emigrazione (assistenza spirituale)
- dipende dalla Congregazione Concistoriale

PROPOSAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF BISHOPS NATIONAL CATHOLIC

WELFARE CONFERENCE

Since it is reliably estimated that at least seventy per-cent of the Displaced Persons in Germany and Austria are of Catholic origin, and since the countries offering the best opportunities for resettlement are predominantly Catholic, it is respectfully proposed that a Catholic Commission be established to further in every way possible the resettlement of the non-repatriable groups. Secretary Byrnes favors such a proposal and has assured the assistance of the State Department to such a Catholic Commission. The cooperation of UNRRA has also been assured to the Commission through the United States' chief representative of UNRRA in Europe.

Because this problem is so vast and will entail large expenditures, which the proposed Catholic Commission could not underwrite, it must be understood that the various governments which may be interested will be requested to meet the expenses. The financing of the Commission for administrative expenses can be undertaken by War Relief Services - National Catholic Welfare Conference.

THE FUNCTION OF THE CATHOLIC COMMISSION

This Commission should be a protective body to ensure the welfare of Displaced Persons who emigrate to new countries. It is respectfully suggested that in order to accomplish its purpose it will need the cooperation of the Holy See with respect to the following:-

1. The Holy See, by contacting South American countries, could determine whether these countries would be willing to accept the immigrants, and how many of them.

2. It is respectfully suggested that the Holy See contact the ranking Prelate of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Chile, Perù, Ecuador, Columbia, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, where it is presumed a settlement of Displaced Persons is possible.

The ranking Prelate should be asked:

a) to present the problem of the Displaced to his government;

b) to ascertain from his government the types of people desired, i.e. agricultural, industrial, intellectual, artisans and to learn also if family groups would be accepted;

c) to learn the kind of area which would be offered and the total number that would be received;

d) to learn also if his government would provide transportation and what facilities of housing on arrival;

e) to induce his government to appoint a Commission to meet with the Catholic Commission in Germany, Austria and Italy regarding the Displaced being transferred to the country of resettlement.

On the Government Commission a priest should be appointed for assurance and encouragement to the Displaced.

f) in each country of resettlement a Governmental Commission should be appointed with a priest as a member to insure the spiritual and physical welfare of the new settlers.

3. The personnel of the Commission would operate on a top level with the Military Government, UNRRA and the United Nations Committee on Refugees, all of which will be concerned with the resettlement of the Displaced Persons.

4. Deputy Director General, Miss Mary Gibbons, representing UNRRA in Europe, has informed us that UNRRA will assist in the registration of all Displaced who wish to be resettled. This information will be filed in the principal offices of UNRRA in Germany and Austria. It is at these Centers that the personnel of the Commission would operate.

5. The Commission vould also meet with representatives of the various governments, who would be willing to have some of the Displaced as immigrants, and previous to such meetings would be provided with the necessary information through UNRRA and the Military Government, as to which persons would wish to be resettled.

6. In order to be a protective body, the personnel of this Commission would be provided with detailed knowledge of the areas offered in the proposed countries of resettlement with respect to their agricultural and industrial value to the immigrants.

This information is being supplied to War Relief services-National Catholic Welfare Conference by nine esperts in the United States Department of Agriculture. These experts are familiar with the agricultural and industrial conditions in the proposed countries of resettlement, and are cooperating with Monsignor Ligutti who has agreed to act as Consultant for War Relief Services in this matter.

7. It is proposed that the Commission would consist, at the most, of ten persons, some of whom are now working among the Displaced in Germany.

   Mr. James J. Norris of War Relief Services, who is going to Europe now to represent War Relief Services and the Bishops' Committee for Refugees, has the qualifications for the executive officer of the Catholic Commission.

91/9/46

C O P Y.

British Legation to the Holy See,
R O M E.

September 20th 1946

(8)

Dear Colonel Tomlin,

Many thanks for your letter No. 8/207 of September 16th, which was most informative and helpful.

As regards your unanswered letter to Mgr. Carroll and the very important matter of collaboration with the organisation which the Vatican are now in process, as I understand, of forming or, at any rate, reconstituting and expanding, I will speak to Monsignor Montini next time I see him, try to find out more about the projected organisation under Cardinal Rossi and tell him of your desire for close cooperation.

Meanwhile I should think that next week you might tackle Mgr. Carroll again. I should warn you that in dealings with the Vatican, the time factor does not have the same value as with us. They look back to St. Peter and onwards down the centuries, and this fourth-dimensional atmosphere is sometimes rather difficult to deal with. The only thing is to go on badgering them - like the importunate widow.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) D.G. Osborne.

91/8/46

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

Reference: 8/207

Draft reply Sept.

D.G.O.

Allied Commission Headquarters,
(Room 47, 3rd floor annex),
Via Vittorio Veneto 33,
Rome.
(Telephone: 471322).

16th September, 1946.

Dear Sir D'Arcy Osborne,

Thank you for your note of the 11th September.

I act as Resident Representative in Italy of the "Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees" (IGCR).

IGCR was formed as a result of the Evian Conference on refugees convened in July 1938 on the initiative of President Roosevelt. IGCR is an official international humanitarian organisation consisting of thirty-six member Governments with an Executive Committee of nine Governments.

I do not think that it is necessary to give you an account of the activities and developments in IGCR since 1938, but the enclosed papers of recent date will, I hope, give you an idea of the present position. These papers are not confidential, but I should be glad if you will treat them as personal to you. I have underlined points of interest.

I also send you a copy of my letter to Monsignor Carroll, to which so far I have not received a reply. I should be grateful for any information on this which you care to give me.

Although the "International Refugee Organization" is not yet in being, you will see, I think, from the enclosed material that those now working with IGCR are likely to be concerned in I.R.O. activities later.

Sir Herbert Emerson was appointed at the beginning of 1939 High Commissioner for Refugees under the Protection of the League of Nations, and has since carried this appointment concurrently with that of Director of the IGCR under its Executive Committee. I receive a very limited amount of League of Nations money from him as High Commissioner for the specific purpose of assistance to "Nansen" Emigré Russians of the first world war. These funds are coming to an end, and how further assistance after 1946 can be given is at present obscure. Persons within this group could however possibly be given financial help towards immigration transport expenses under the extended powers of IGCR.

I shall be glad at any time to give you any further information which you may wish.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Tomlin

Lt.Col. Julian L. Tomlin,
Resident Representative,
I.G.C.R.

His Excellency Sir D'Arcy Osborne, K.C.M.G.,
British Minister to the Holy See,
Piazza del Parliamento 14,
Rome.

Reference: 8/207

Allied Commission Headquarters,
Via Vittorio Veneto 33
(Room 47, 3rd floor annex),
ROME.
(Telephone: 471322).

9th September, 1946.

Dear Monsignor Carroll,

Thank you for the interesting talk we had on Saturday at the Vatican. I think you would like to have an outline of our work, which you may care to show to His Excellency Monsignor Montini, whom I hope to have the pleasure of meeting soon.

(No. 9) I enclose a copy of one of our monthly reports, which will give you an idea of the current activities of the Committee in various countries.

Hitherto the care and maintenance generally of refugees in Italy has, in the first instance, been the concern of the Displaced Persons Branch of the Allied Commission and of UNRRA, although we have also been active in many ways in the welfare and assistance of refugees who could not obtain help from other sources. Also, as representative here of the High Commissioner for Refugees under the Protection of the League of Nations, I have been able to help certain persons whose refugee status dates from after the first World War and who have, under the Nansen scheme, been eligible for international protection.

As you know, these bodies will not continue indefinitely, and the formation of some more permanent International Refugee Organization is now the concern of the United Nations.

In the meantime, a great deal of preparatory work is being done connected with the realistic survey of the numbers, nationalities, professions, aspirations and so on of the residual groups of refugees who for various reasons may not be repatriable to their own countries.

In this connection I should emphasize that the primary concern of any international body concerned with refugees or displaced persons is repatriation, although their right of choice, made in complete freedom and after receiving full knowledge of the facts, is accepted as an established principle.

We know that there are large numbers of displaced persons of the Catholic Faith who are firmly determined not to return to their own countries, who will eventually come within the benefits of the International Refugee Organization, and who are now within the scope of our own activities. For these people there may be many possibilities of resettlement in some of the South American countries, where the influence of the Vatican would be of such invaluable assistance in inducing these States to adopt a liberal attitude towards emigration.

Monsignor Walter S. Carroll,
Secretariat of State of His Holiness,
Vatican City.

There are several projects of group resettlement, at present being considered, notably one for Brazil, where our representatives are now in touch with the Government, which I understand is likely to send a mission to Europe this autumn in order to study further the scheme in Germany, Austria and Italy. These projects are at present only exploratory, and it would be inadvisable to arouse false hopes (especially among refugees themselves) by exaggerating the existing possibilities of such resettlement.

We should like to act in the closest touch with the Vatican in all these activities, so that our efforts may be co-operative and may not overlap. We know that His Holiness would be deeply concerned in this vast humanitarian problem and that efforts have already been made by representatives of the Vatican to develop proposals for resettlement. I, as representative of our Committee in Italy, should be glad to co-operate fully in such proposals, and would be able to make practical suggestions with regard to financial assistance in transportation and settlement.

I think that Mr. Norris has already appealed to His Holiness for his gracious help in the creation of a favourable public opinion in countries of reception of refugees, and in particular towards the building up of indigenous organisations for their care and welfare. I should be much interested to hear the results of his appeal.

Apart from group resettlement, we are paying particular attention to the emigration of family units or individuals, which we hope will, as time goes on, materially reduce the size of the problem. Many refugees come to us who have already decided on practical lines what they want to do, and have obtained all their permits to emigrate, but have not the means to pay for their transportation. Subject to certain conditions (those which are likely to be adopted by the International Refugee Organisation) we can assist financially towards their transportation costs. We wish to exploit in every way we can opportunities for individual emigration (where repatriation is not in question) and to collaborate with every authority or agency who is working in the same field to help refugees with their documents and actual movement arrangements. In many cases the help of the Vatican in obtaining visas at the Consulates would be of the greatest assistance.

I gathered from our conversation that a branch of the Secretariat of State of His Holiness is likely to be formed which will be concerned with resettlement problems, and I should be grateful for any information you can give me with regard to it. I should like to establish a practical liaison with those who are dealing with actual cases of emigration, and will be glad to come and discuss this further with you at your convenience.

My telephone is No. 471322.

Yours sincerely,

Lt.Col. Julian L. Tomlin,
Resident Representative,
I.G.C.R.

91/6/46

Memo. for Mgr. Montini

MEMORANDUM

Confidential

His Majesty's Government have for some months been making great efforts to bring about a large-scale international solution of the refugee and displaced persons problem, and there has been a series of conferences etc. to deal with it. As a result, it is hoped to create a new International Refugee Organisation, whose business it will be to collect all the necessary data regarding non-repatriable displaced persons and refugees, to take charge of them and to do whatever may be possible to resettle them in new countries.

2. The people who need resettlement fall into various groups. The most immediate pre-occupation of His Majesty's Government is with the Poles of the Polish Armed Forces in the West, towards whom they have assumed a special responsibility. There are about 183,000 of these, whom His Majesty's Government are most anxious to get settled somewhere as soon as possible, together with such numbers of their families as can be traced and brought to join them. His Majesty's Government have been negotiating with the Dominions and with the Latin American States - particularly with Brazil - in the hope of finding suitable places for the resettlement of these very deserving people, and have recently made some progress, though the problem still bristles with difficulties.

3. There are further large numbers of Poles, Yugoslavs and others who were on the side of the Allies during the war, but who are generally called "innocent dissidents", (a phrase which to the Russians and their satellites seems a contradiction in terms). They are, for the most part, the remains of the original armies, or of the slave workers deported by the Germans, though in some cases they are also more recent refugees and fugitives from the present regime in their countries of origin.

4. There are also a certain number of victims of German persecution of other kinds, who cannot go back to Germany or elsewhere, and deserve international help. And there are, of course, largish groups of stateless people and other miscellaneous refugees of the war years, whom it is desired to re-establish in some kind of tolerable conditions.

5. It appears that the American "National Catholic Welfare Conference" have already sponsored and financed a certain number of successful refugee resettlement schemes in Latin America, and that they are principally interested in the resettlement of Poles. It is understood that the American Catholic Hierarchy have also requested the Vatican to make an appeal through the Catholic Bishops in Latin America for grants of land, funds etc. to Polish refugees in various Latin American countries. This appeal is said already to have borne fruit and to have led to some useful results, particularly in Colombia - where it is believed that some 250 families of Poles have already been settled on land made available as a result of local voluntary and charitable effort. The American

/Catholics

Catholics are also very anxious to help over the resettlement of the Uniat Ukrainians, the exiled Lithuanians, and the more recent refugees from Slovenia.

6. Apart from the Poles in the Polish Armed Forces in the West, His Majesty's Government have also a very large number of Poles - possibly as many as 200,000 - in the British Zone in Germany, who cannot remain there for ever, but who in many cases have excellent reasons for not going back to Poland under its present regime. There are also in the British Zone large numbers of Latvians, Lithuanians and Uniat Ukrainians. His Majesty's Government are anxious to reduce this particular problem so far as they can, and would be grateful for any help which the Vatican might be able to give them in effecting the resettlement of these persons in Brazil or elsewhere in Latin America.

7. In general, His Majesty's Government would appreciate any assistance that the Holy See may be able to contribute towards the contemplated International solution of the refugee and displaced persons problem.

British Legation to the Holy See,

R O M E.

August 10th 1946.

91/5/46

British Legation to the Holy See,

R O M E.

91/5/46

August 8th 1946.

My dear Rendel,

(4)

Your letter (WR 1944/441/48) of July 22nd reached me at Paris on my way back here from England. I to-day spoke briefly to the Pope and at length to Monsignor Montini on the subject and found both of them very receptive. Montini had a lot to say.

2. He assured me that the problem was one that the Pope had very much at heart. Cardinal Rossi had been instructed to expand some small already existing committee into a larger and more active body. All Nuncios have been asked to produce all relevant information. The South American countries have been appealed to and apparently with hopeful results. It is hoped that Paraguay will accept 200,000 and the American Bishops hope in all to send half a million settlers to the different South American countries. A Bishop Simonds from Melbourne has been here recently and is now believed to be in England (perhaps you know all about him); he has come to Europe to arrange for 70,000 settlers in Australia. Canada, suggested Montini, with its vast undeveloped areas should be able to absorb <u>all</u> the Poles! The severe winter climate would not bother them and they would make good citizens. In this connection I enclose a cutting from the "Osservatore Romano" about a statement by Cardinal MacGuigan of Toronto. Maybe the Vatican have instructed him to try to bring pressure to bear in Canada. I should expect that the Vatican have little understanding of, or respect for, the policies of the Dominions. They see these vast spaces on the map and they would regard a policy of exclusion as unChristian, dog-in-the-manger egoism. In general both the Pope and Montini took too optimistic a view of the possibilities of obtaining the necessary territory and facilities for settlement, whether in the Dominions, Latin America or elsewhere. I tried to correct this.

3. Montini said that Vatican experience was that there were three major problems involved: (1) the selection of the right people in national groups, the elimination of undesirables and, in general, the screening and briefing of the intended settlers, (2) the assurance of proper living conditions from the various points of view of health and

reasonable...

Sir George Rendel K.C.M.G.,

Foreign Office.

reasonable happiness, economic self-sufficiency and benefit to the receiving country, and (3) transport.

4. I gathered that the Vatican's new agency is hardly functioning yet or at any rate is only in the preliminary fact-finding stage. It may well be that after its initial launching on a flow of Christian charity, it will founder on a sea of frustration and incapacity. But in the meantime the iron is hot for the striking and Montini asked me to obtain for him all the information I could on any aspect of the subject. He asked me for a Memorandum on what I could tell him of your letter, but in fact there is not very much that I can use. Can you let me have a lot more information? Couldn't perhaps the Vatican orgnaisation work very closely with the new international body, or the Vatican be represented on the latter body? In the meantime I can make good use of anything at all that you can send me out, and the more I can assist the Vatican with facts and figures, the more likely are they to help.

Yours ever,

Much of the information here would be of great interest to Mgr Montini - see (2) para 5. In return he might help us as requested.
N
2.8.

91/4/46

(WR 1944/441/48)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

22nd July, 1946.

BRITISH LEGATION TO THE HOLY SEE
2 AUG 1946

My dear Osborne,

As you may have gathered from the print and telegrams (if you receive them) His Majesty's Government have for some months been making great efforts to bring about a large-scale international solution of the refugee and displaced persons problem, and there has been a series of conferences etc. to deal with it. As a result, we hope, as soon as we can get the scheme over the remaining hurdles, to create a new International Refugee Organisation, whose business it will be to collect all the necessary data about non-repatriable displaced persons and refugees, to take charge of them and to do whatever may be possible to resettle them in new countries.

2. The people who need resettlement fall into various groups. Our most immediate pre-occupation is the Poles of the Polish armed forces in the west, towards whom we have assumed a special responsibility. We have about one hundred and eighty three thousand of these on our hands, whom we are most anxious to get settled somewhere as soon as possible, together with such members of their families as can be traced and brought to join them. We have been negotiating with the Dominions and with the Latin American States - particularly with Brazil - in the hope of finding suitable places for the resettlement of these very deserving people, and have recently made some progress, though the problem still bristles with difficulties.

3. There are further large numbers of Poles, Yugoslavs and others who were on our side during the war, but whom we generally call "innocent dissidents" (a phrase which to the Russians and their satellites seems a contradiction in terms). They are, for the most part, the remains of the original armies, or of the slave workers deported by the Germans, though in some cases they are also more recent refugees and fugitives from the present régimes in their countries of origin. You must be pretty familiar with this aspect of the question in Italy, which I understand is full of innocent refugees of various kinds from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

4. Then there are a certain number of victims of German persecution of other kinds, who cannot go back to Germany or elsewhere, and deserve international help. And there are, of course, largish groups of stateless people and other flotsam and jetsam of the war years, whom we are very anxious to see re-established in some kind of tolerable conditions.

5. When I was in New York last month I was approached by Monsignor O'Boyle, and other representatives, whom I had met on previous occasions, of the American "National "Catholic Welfare Conference" which, as you know, is the main body for the co-ordination of Catholic welfare and charitable work in the United States, and which has been very/

Sir D'Arcy Osborne, K.C.M.G.,
Holy See.

very much interested both in the question of European relief and in the refugee problem generally. They were extremely well informed about our plans, and were very anxious to help to mobilise American opinion in support of them, and to do anything they could to further our schemes for the resettlement of these unfortunate people.

6. It appears that they have already sponsored and financed a certain number of successful refugee resettlement schemes in Latin America, and are particularly interested in the resettlement of Poles. They explained that they had already got the American Catholic hierarchy to ask the Vatican to make an appeal through the Catholic Bishops in Latin America for grants of land, funds etc. to Polish refugees in various Latin American countries. This appeal had I gathered already borne fruit and led to some useful results, particularly in Colombia - where I understood them to say that some two hundred and fifty families of Poles had already been settled on land made available as a result of local voluntary charitable effort. They were also very anxious to help over the resettlement of the Uniat Ukrainians, the exiled Lithuanians, and the more recent refugees from Slovenia.

7. It has occurred to us that it might be very useful if, provided you see no objection, you could have a talk with the people at the Vatican about this problem, explain to them how keen we are to try and get it satisfactorily settled, and encourage them to renew their appeals to the Latin American hierarchy to help over the resettlement of Poles and others in Latin America. If they feel they could help in other directions as well, it would of course be all to the good.

See (2) the formation of the "Catholic National Office for Emigration"

8. There is one point which is of special concern to us. Apart from our own Poles in the Polish armed forces in the west, we have a very large number of Poles - possibly as many as two hundred thousand - in our Zone in Germany who cannot remain there for ever, but who in many cases for excellent reasons feel they cannot go back to Poland under its present régime. The Americans also have at least an equal number of Poles in their Zone. There are also in both Zones large numbers of Latvians, Lithuanians and Uniat Ukrainians. Our plans for international action have been held up by various difficulties, so that the new International Refugee Organisation may not be formed until well on in next year. Meanwhile, both we and the Americans are anxious to reduce the problem as far as we can, and there is some danger of a very embarrassing competition developing between the Americans and ourselves as to which of us can get these non-repatriable refugees out of our respective Zones first. The Americans naturally have a pull over us in regard to Latin America, but we cannot compensate this by sending ours to the Dominions, since all our Dominions have their strict immigration laws and immigration problems of their own. As a result it is possible that all the available opportunities for resettlement in Brazil and elsewhere in Latin America will be snapped up by the Americans, and filled by immigrants from the American Zones in Germany and Austria, before/

See (3) the activities of the Archbishop of Genoa

before we can get anything done for the people from our Zones. We are very anxious to prevent this from happening, and though you would obviously have to use great discretion in hinting at this aspect of the question to the Vatican, it is a further reason why we are anxious that the Vatican should help us in any way it can and should realise both that we have a special problem of our own, and that we have, in fact, been the leaders in the campaign for international action.

Yours ever,

George Rendel.

Copy communicated to Embassy. Interesting. Genoa is clearly the centre for Vatican emigration schemes. + BS 10.6.

91/3/46

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM THE BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL, GENOA. DATED 24th May, 1946

A member of my staff was to-day approached by Don Aurelio Torrazza, Monsignor Siri's right-hand man, with a view to obtaining a passport for Ing. Robert Foucon de Tourenne. The passport is required to enable De Tourenne to accompany Don Torrazza to Brazil on a special secret mission in connection with the Vatican's intention to organise a large scale emigration to that country of anti-communist political refugees. Don Torrazza explained that De Tourenne is to go as technical advisor on the shipping side of the question, but X was under the impression that this reason was an excuse with which to cover the real reasons for De Tourenne's departure. In X's opinion the Vatican (or perhaps Monsignor Siri himself) is anxious to place De Tourenne in safety in case he should one day find himself unable to remain in this country and compelled to return to France where he would certainly be tried as a collaborationist. The Vatican would also make good use of De Tourenne, who is violently anti-communist once he had arrived in Brazil.

Don Torrazza explained that as De Tourenne was a Vichyite, and therefore persona non grata to the present French Consular authorities, it was necessary to obtain a passport for him from some other Consulate, preferably South American. It was at Monsignor Siri's suggestion that he, Don Torrazza, had come to ask for advice. Don Torrazza stated that the Vatican, although it would naturally not figure in the affair for reasons which were only too obvious, was prepared to pay something extra, in other words bribe, in order to obtain the passport.

It was pointed out to Don Torrazza that we knew none of the Consuls of the South American Republics, nor any of their staffs, but that in our opinion the Vatican, or its representatives in this matter, would be well advised to deal in a straightforward manner and make use of what influence was at their disposal in French official circles, either at the French Embassy in Rome or at the Quai d'Orsay. And just in case Don Torrazza's intention was to sound other possibilities, he was informed that no British or American consular official would lend himself to such a proposal.

Don Torrazza then mentioned that De Tourenne was related to the newly-elected President of the Argentine, Colonel Peron, and asked whether something could be done from that direction. The reply was that if Colonel Peron was willing to assist a relative by authorising the grant of an Argentine passport to a French subject, that was purely Colonel Peron's responsibility and an act which he, as head of a State, was no doubt permitted to authorise. The Vatican in that case would not be guilty of bribery and a Consular official of corruption.

/Don

Don Torrazza asked that the subject of the conversation should not be divulged, explaining that the Vatican's intention of doing what it could to assist the emigration to a safer clime of as many political refugees (anti-communist, i.e. ex fascist) as possible was a secret, and that although the means suggested in this particular case was not altogether above board, "il fine e'santo ed umano", the end was a very holy and humane one indeed. Monsignor Siri, recently elected Archbishop of Genoa and a very popular figure in this city, had been entrusted by the Vatican with this activity and had charged Don Torrazza with taking care of the details. Monsignor Siri had been unable to do anything in Rome in connection with the passport for his protege and had yesterday telephoned Don Torrazza telling him to see one of my staff and ask his advice.

91/2/46

British Legation to the Holy See,

Rome.

June 13th, 1946.

Dear Malcolm,

(1) On receipt of your letter 256/14/46 of the 9th May regarding Vatican emigration plans I at once got in touch with the Vatican and yesterday Monsignor Montini, Under Secretary of State to the Holy See, asked me to call on him to explain the position to me.

2. He informed me that the Vatican were indeed greatly interested in the possibility of arranging the emigration of displaced persons - Hungarians, Balts, Yugoslavs etc. etc. - from Europe, especially Italy, to countries in South America, especially Brazil and the Argentine, and also to Canada and Australia. It would be an exaggeration to speak of "mass" emigration, but the Vatican were thinking of group, and not individual emigration.

3. No official negotiations had yet been opened with any of the above countries, nor had any decision been taken by the Vatican, still less had any appointments in this connexion been offered to anyone, as indicated in the report of the Consulate General at Genoa on the 26th April.

/4.

A.C.E. Malcolm, Esq.,
British Embassy,
Rome.

4. In the next few weeks, however, certain recommendations would be made by a Vatican committee appointed to study the question, and Monsignor Montini promised to let me know the results.

5. In the meanwhile he would be grateful to know whether we have any plans or views regarding emigration which might be of assistance to the Vatican, and especially what possibilities might be offered of emigration to Canada and Australia.

6. Can you let me have any information on the above points?

Yours ever,
(sgd) P. Leigh-Smith.

P.S. I have just seen this report in yesterday's A.R.I. bulletin.

Italian Catholic Committee for Emigration.

Following the studies, findings and proposals of an Investigation Committee appointed last August from among prominent authorities in the field of emigration, a "Catholic National Committee for Emigration", sponsored by the Catholic Institute of Social Activity (I.C.A.S.) was formally established about the middle of May last. The Committee proposes to unify the work of the many Catholic organisations interested in Italian emigration, to promote

/closer

closer contacts with Catholic organisations providing for emigrants' needs abroad, and, finally, to collect studies, data and documents on emigration and its problems. The Italian Catholic Workers' League, ONARMO, The Confederation of Italian Cooperatives, "Aiuto Cristiano", the National Arts and Craft Centre, and other Societies promoting the welfare of emigrants have signified their willingness to serve on the Committee. H. Em. Cardinal Rossi, Secretary of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation, who presides at the same time over a Section looking after Italian emigrants' spiritual welfare, expressed to the Committee his appreciation and encouragement.

The Committee's Secretarial Offices, which are already working along the lines indicated in the Committee's programme, are for the time being located at I.C.A.S. Headquarters, 86 via de Pretis.

91/1/46

I have spoken to Mr McGeough about this, who says that the Vatican is much interested in the question of emigration to Catholic S. America & may already be in touch with various S. American Embassies or Legations on this subject. He will let us know as soon as possible exactly what is being done.

RJ
15.5.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
ROME.

256/14/46.

9th May, 1946.

Dear Leigh-Smith

In a report from the Consulate-General at Genoa, dated 26th April, the following passage occurs:

Emigration and the Church.

An important Genoese industrialist who is in close touch with local Church circles states that the Vatican is studying the possibility of arranging mass emigration from Europe, particularly from Northern Europe and Italy, to South America where, according to this same source, there is a great shortage of labour. This industralist was asked to accept an appointment connected with the scheme so far as Italy was concerned, but he has had to refuse on account of the calls of his own business which would not enable him to devote sufficient time to the duties connected with the appointment. Source stated that the scheme was still in the early stages.

As the Foreign Office have started showing much interest in plans for emigration from Italy, I wonder if you would be kind enough to take some opportunity of asking the Vatican whether this Genoa report is true and if so, of getting any information you can as to the intended countries of immigration.

Yours ever

Angus Malcolm

A.C.E. Malcolm.

P. Leigh-Smith Esq.,
The British Legation,
to the Holy See,
Via del Parlamento 14,
Rome.

File Number :—